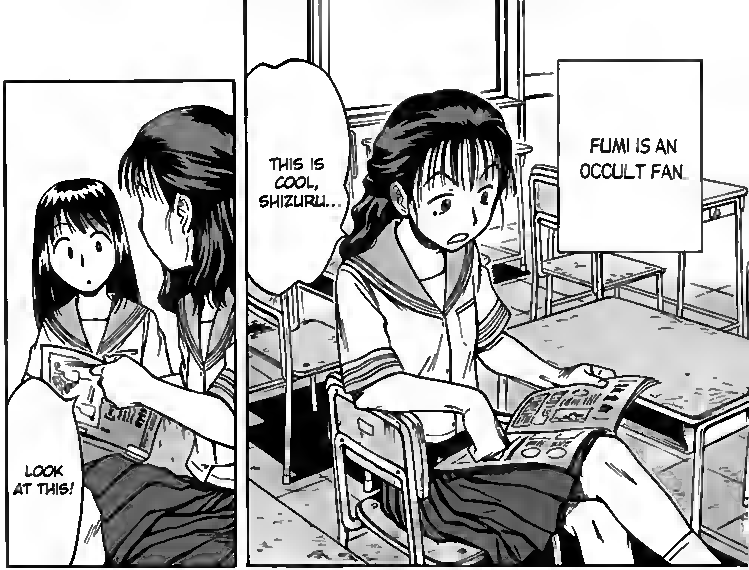
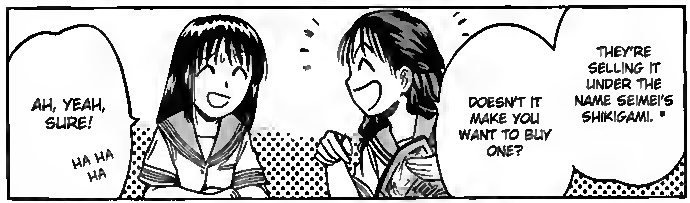
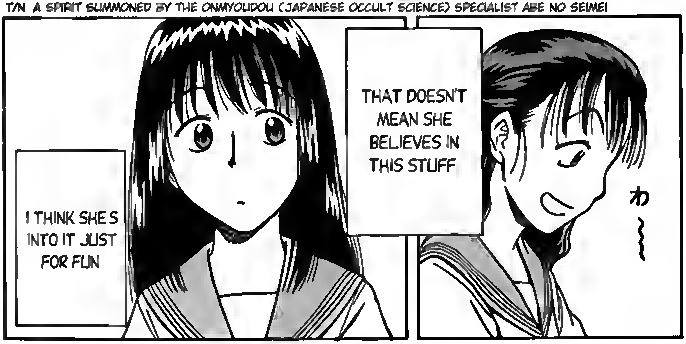
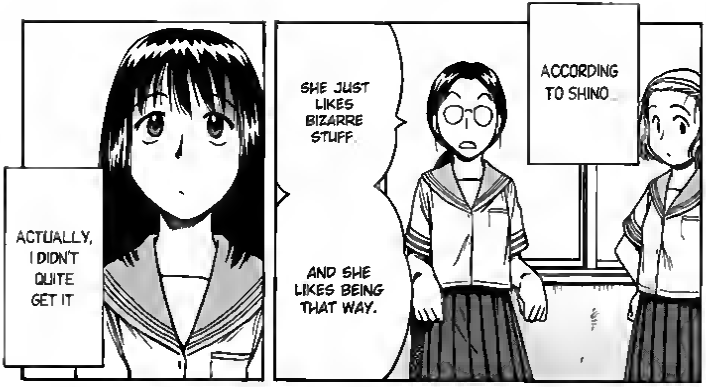
11
Kudan no Koto

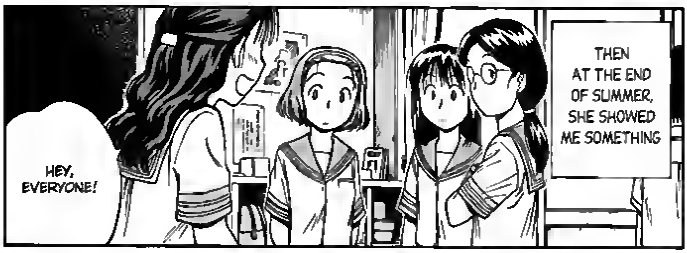




T/N A SPIRIT SUMMONED BY THE ONMYOUDOU (JAPANESE OCCULT SCIENCE) SPECIALIST ABE NO SEIMEI




ACTUALLY, I DIDN'T QUITE GET IT
SHE JUST LIKES BIZARRE STUFF.
AND SHE LIKES BEING THAT WAY.
ACCORDING TO SHINO...


HEY, EVERYONE!
THEN AT THE END OF SUMMER, SHE SHOWED ME SOMETHING

* KEN

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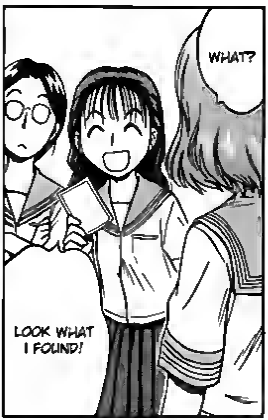
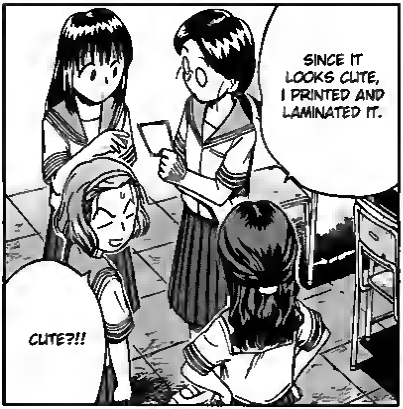

WHAT?
LOOK WHAT I FOUND!

DOESN'T IT HAVE ANOTHER READING,
SHIZURU?
EH, YEAH.
KEN?
YEAH, KEN MEANS "BUSINESS"
HMM?
IT CAN ALSO BE READ AS "KUDARI" OR "KUDAN".
YEP, THAT'S IT!
UGH, WHAT A LITERARY BUNCH!
WHAT IS THIS PICTURE EXACTLY?
WHAT'S IT FOR?
ACTUALLY,
I FOUND IT IN A FORUM YESTERDAY.
SUPPOSEDLY IT SERVES AS A LUCKY CHARM WHEN YOU HAVE IT ON YOU.

YEAH, IT HAS A CUTE FACE ONCE YOU LOOK CLOSELY.
YOU REALLY HAVE WEIRD TASTE.


SINCE IT LOOKS CUTE, I PRINTED AND LAMINATED IT.
CUTE?!!

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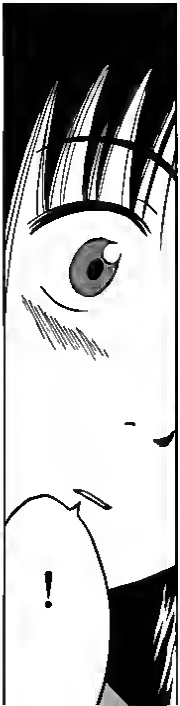
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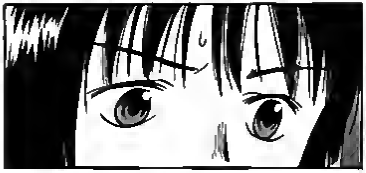

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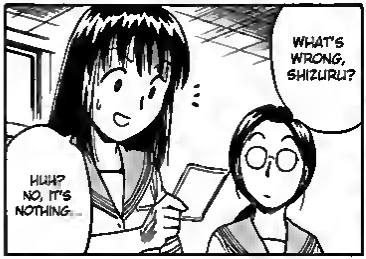
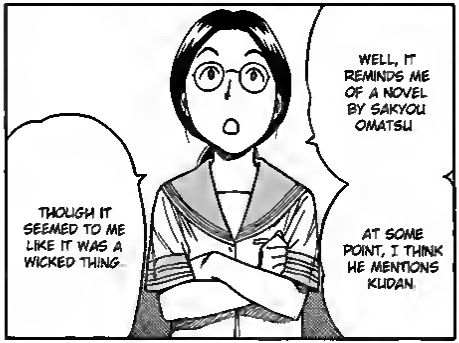
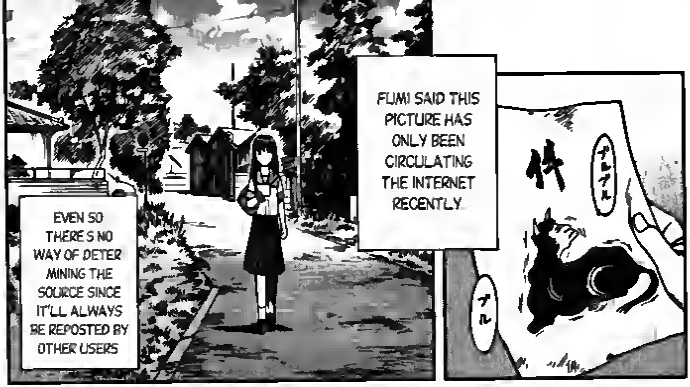

WHAT'S WRONG, SHIZURU?
HUH? NO, IT'S NOTHING...


WELL, IT REMINDS ME OF A NOVEL BY SAKYOU OMATSU
AT SOME POINT, I THINK HE MENTIONS KUDAN.
THOUGH IT SEEMED TO ME LIKE IT WAS A WICKED THING.

SO,
THIS THING BRINGS LUCK?
I THINK SO.
YOU DIDN'T EVEN LOOK IT UP?

IN THE END, IT'S JUST A WORK OF FICTION.
DON'T WANNA HEAR THAT FROM YOU!
OH, BUT THIS ONE IS DIFFERENT FROM THE ONE I SAW.
THIS ONE LOOKS MORE LIKE A COW WITH A HUMAN'S HEAD.

FUMI,
CAN YOU TELL ME WHERE YOU FOUND THIS PICTURE?
.....
SEE? NOW EVEN SHIZURU BELIEVES YOU!
DO YOU WANT ONE?
AAH, YEAH, I'M A BIT INTERES-TED.
LUCKY FOR YOU, I MADE A LOT OF COPIES!
HOW MANY DO YOU WANT?
I CAN EVEN LAMI-NATE THEM FOR YOU, IF YOU WANT!
AH, NO IT'S OKAY... I'M JUST GONNA TAKE ONE
WHAT A WEIRDO!


FUMI SAID THIS PICTURE HAS ONLY BEEN CIRCULATING THE INTERNET RECENTLY.
EVEN SO THERE'S NO WAY OF DETER MINING THE SOURCE SINCE IT'LL ALWAYS BE REPOSTED BY OTHER USERS
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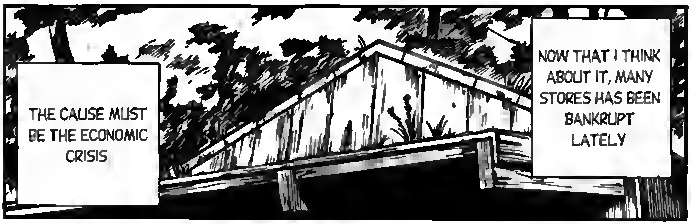
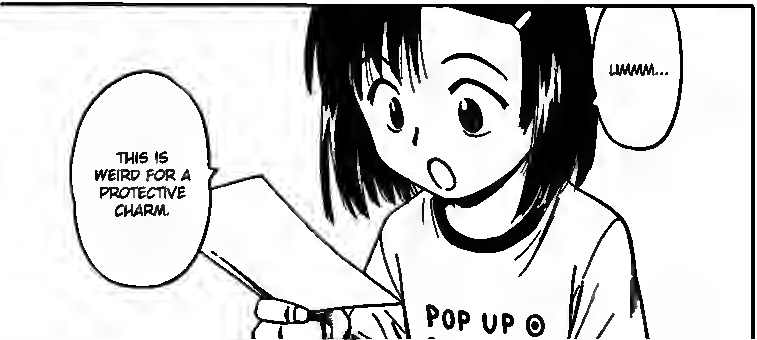
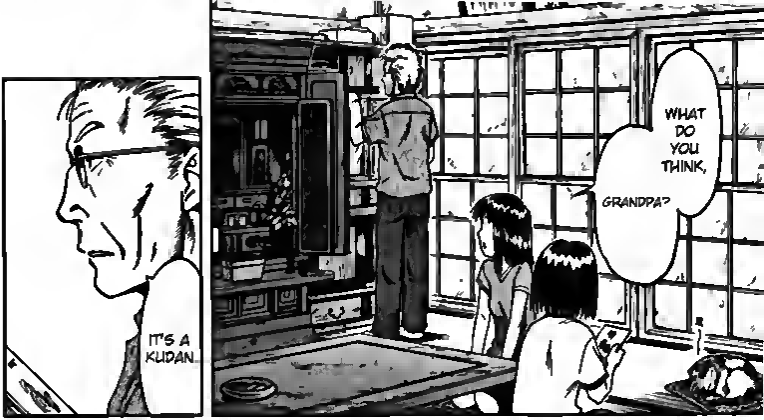
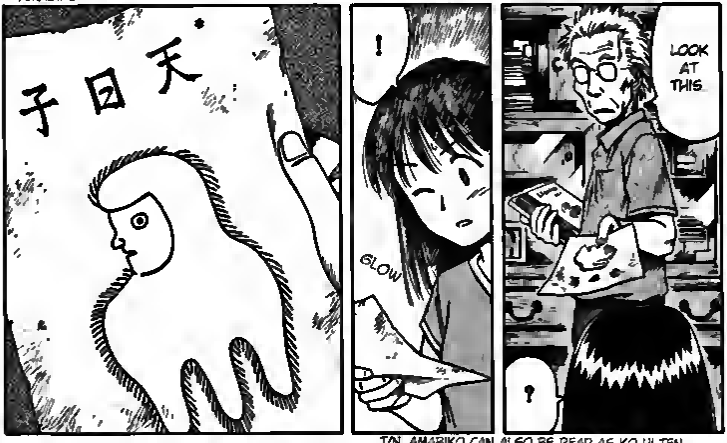
IT'S BEEN A WHILE SINCE THIS STORE WAS ABANDONED
THEY SHOULD TEAR IT DOWN BEFORE IT SWARMS WITH INSECTS!
It stinks here!


THE CAUSE MUST BE THE ECONOMIC CRISIS
NOW THAT I THINK ABOUT IT, MANY STORES HAS BEEN BANKRUPT LATELY

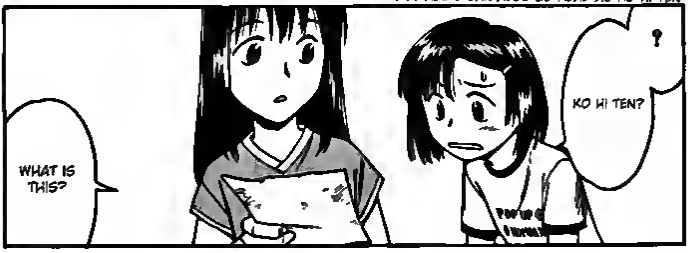

THIS IS WEIRD FOR A PROTECTIVE CHARM.
UMMM...
POP UP

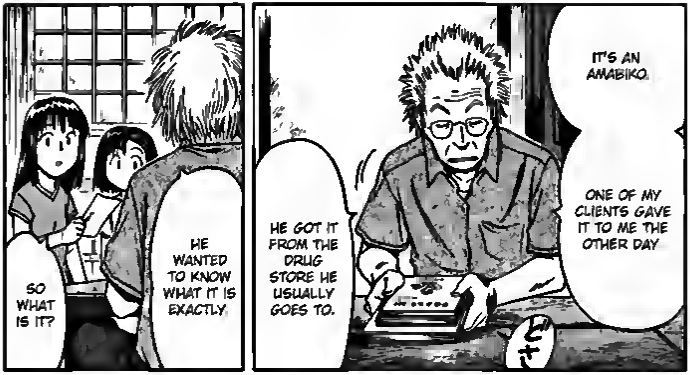


* AMABIKO

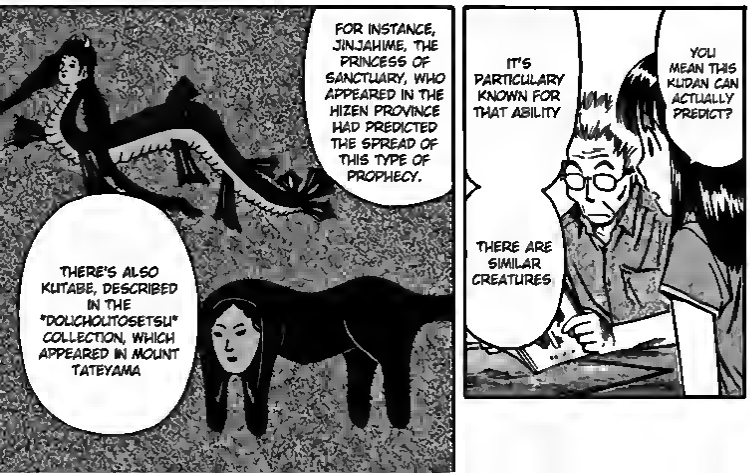


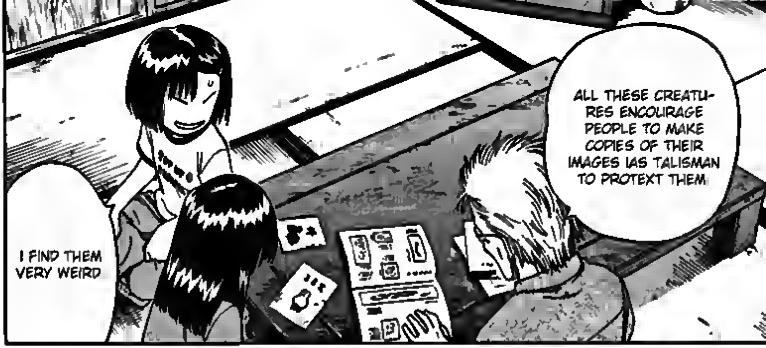
T/N AMABIKO CAN ALSO BE READ AS KO HI TEN

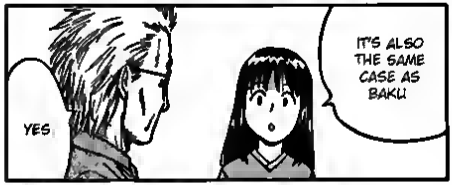



SO WHAT IS IT?
HE WANTED TO KNOW WHAT IT IS EXACTLY.
HE GOT IT FROM THE DRUG STORE HE USUALLY GOES TO.
IT'S AN AMABIKO.
ONE OF MY CLIENTS GAVE IT TO ME THE OTHER DAY

"A PLAGUE IS GOING TO TAKE PLACE SOON BUT IF YOU RE-PRODUCE ME AND KEEP ME SOMEWHERE IN YOUR HOUSE, YOU WILL BE SPARED."
IT OFFERS TO THE ONE WHO LOOKS AT IT A TOOL TO REPEL EVIL AS WELL AS A PRO-PHECY SUCH AS:
IT'S THE SAME AS THE ONE YOU HAVE.

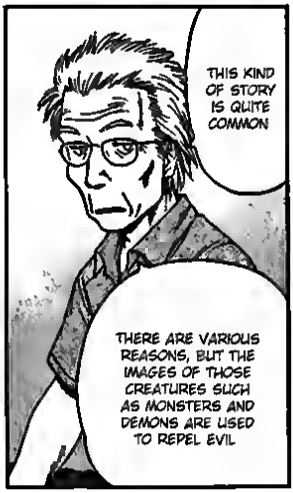

THERE'S ALSO KUTABE, DESCRIBED IN THE "DOUCHOUTOSETSU" COLLECTION, WHICH APPEARED IN MOUNT TATEYAMA
FOR INSTANCE, JINJAHIME, THE PRINCESS OF SANCTUARY, WHO APPEARED IN THE HIZEN PROVINCE HAD PREDICTED THE SPREAD OF THIS TYPE OF PROPHECY.
THERE ARE SIMILAR CREATURES
IT'S PARTICULARY KNOWN FOR THAT ABILITY
YOU MEAN THIS KUDAN CAN ACTUALLY PREDICT?

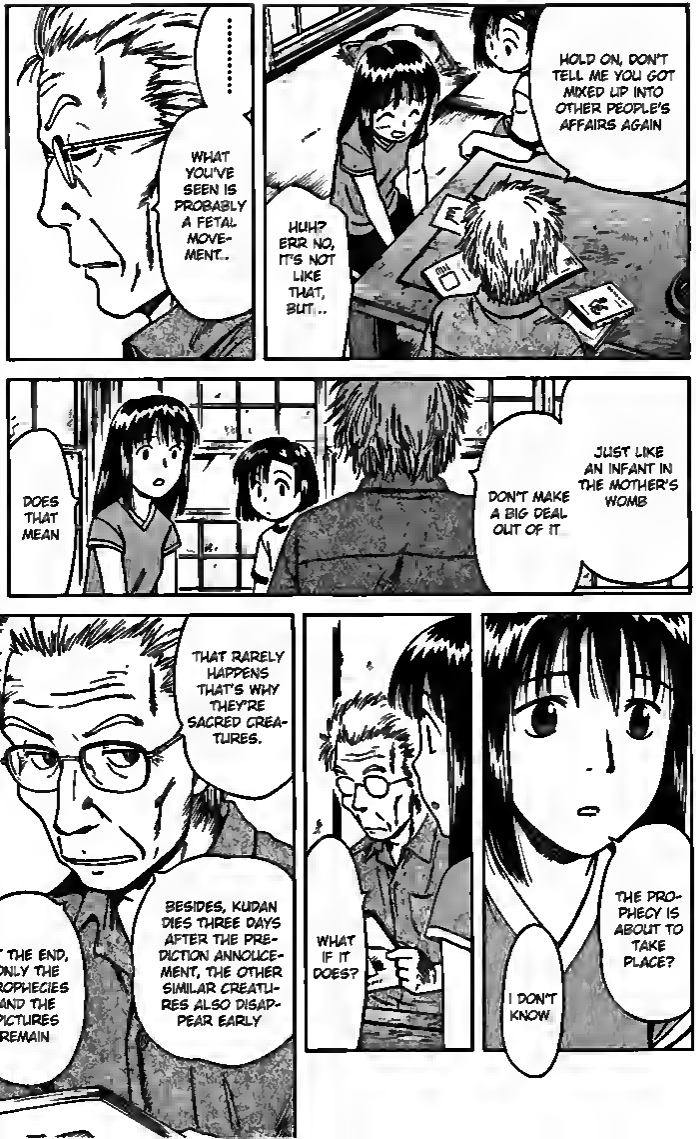


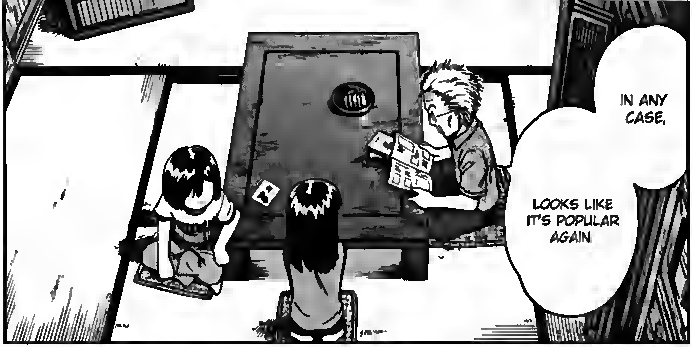


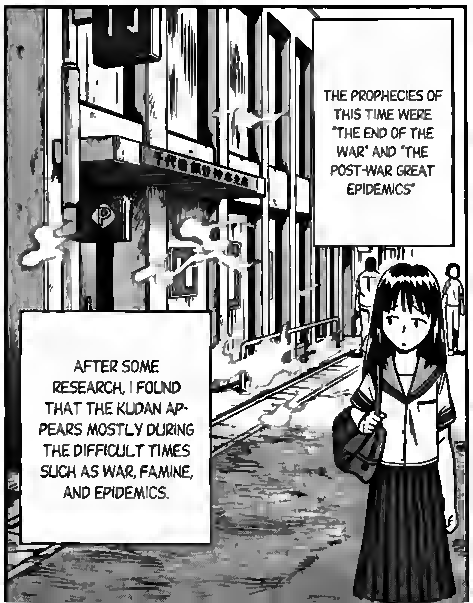
T/N: BAKU IS A SPIRIT THAT DEVOURS NIGHTMARES

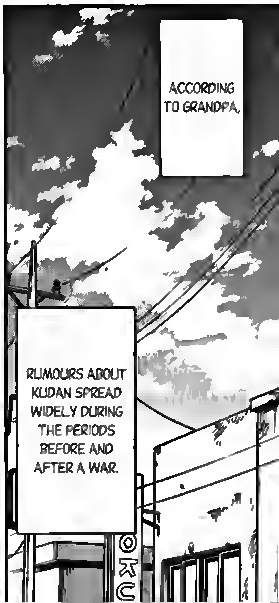
HAKUTAKU IS IN FACT A SACRED BEAST WITH UNLIMITED KNOWLEDGE
THE IMAGE OF HAKUTAKU THAT WE OFTEN CONFUSE WITH BAKU IS ALSO USED A LOT TO REPEL EVIL


THIS KIND OF STORY IS QUITE COMMON
THERE ARE VARIOUS REASONS, BUT THE IMAGES OF THOSE CREATURES SUCH AS MONSTERS AND DEMONS ARE USED TO REPEL EVIL

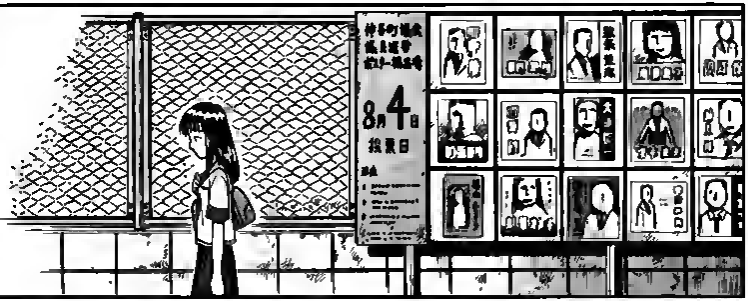

.....
WHAT YOU'VE SEEN IS PROBABLY A FETAL MOVEMENT..
HUH? ERR NO, IT'S NOT LIKE THAT, BUT..
HOLD ON, DON'T TELL ME YOU GOT MIXED UP INTO OTHER PEOPLE'S AFFAIRS AGAIN
DOES THAT MEAN
DON'T MAKE A BIG DEAL OUT OF IT
JUST LIKE AN INFANT IN THE MOTHER'S WOMB
THAT RARELY HAPPENS THAT'S WHY THEY'RE SACRED CREATURES.
BESIDES, KUDAN DIES THREE DAYS AFTER THE PREDICTION ANNOUCEMENT, THE OTHER SIMILAR CREATURES ALSO DISAPPEAR EARLY
AT THE END, ONLY THE PROPHECIES AND THE PICTURES REMAIN
WHAT IF IT DOES?
I DON'T KNOW
THE PROPHECY IS ABOUT TO TAKE PLACE?


IN ANY CASE,
LOOKS LIKE IT'S POPULAR AGAIN


THE PROPHECIES OF THIS TIME WERE "THE END OF THE WAR" AND "THE POST-WAR GREAT EPIDEMICS"
AFTER SOME RESEARCH, I FOUND THAT THE KUDAN APPEARS MOSTLY DURING THE DIFFICULT TIMES SUCH AS WAR, FAMINE, AND EPIDEMICS.


ACCORDING TO GRANDPA,
RUMOURS ABOUT KUDAN SPREAD WIDELY DURING THE PERIODS BEFORE AND AFTER A WAR.

I'M WONDERING IF IT'LL APPEAR SOON
CONCERNING THE KUDAN THAT'S BEEN SPREADING RECENTLY, I HAVENT HEARD OF ITS PROPHECY YET


8月4日
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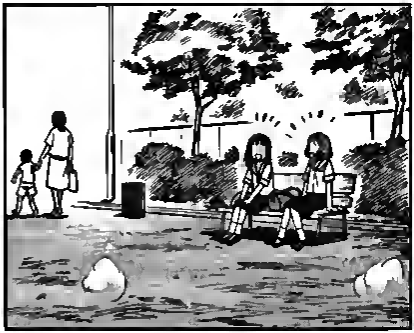
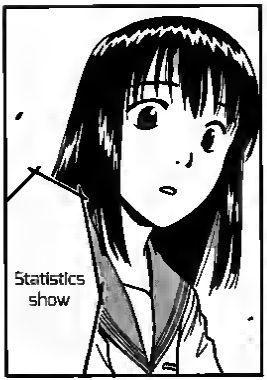
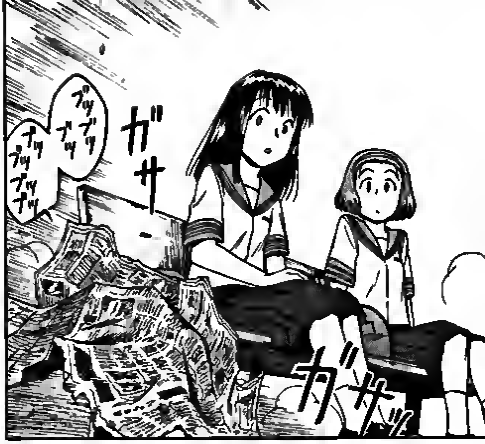



Statistics show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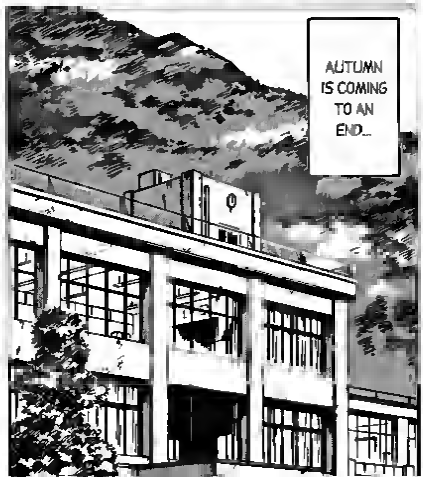
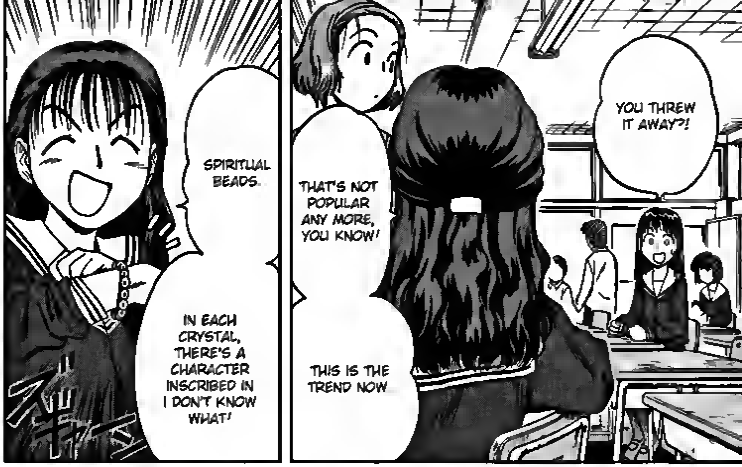
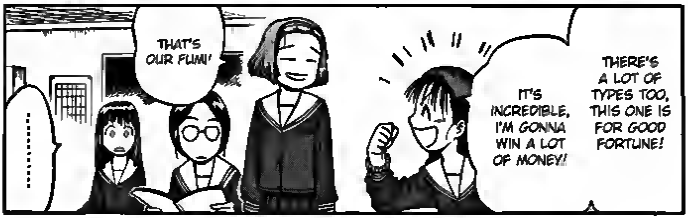
that the suicide rate among young adults is increasing every year and one of the main causes...

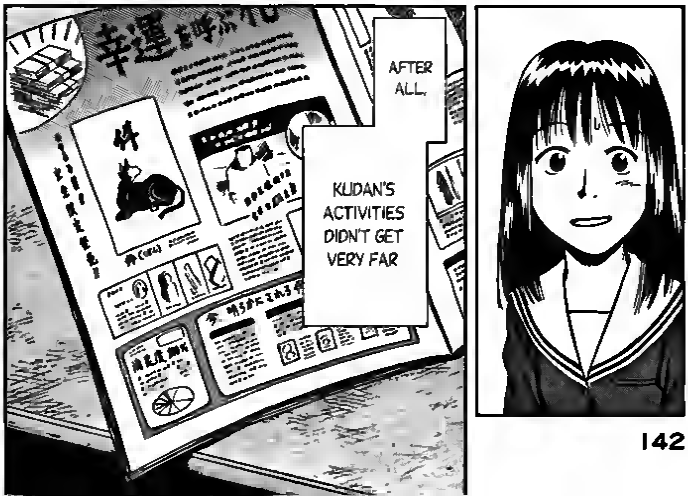

AUTUMN IS COMING TO AN END...

PASS ME THE SOY SAUCE, PLEASE?
sessions with psychiatrists are recommended
EUH, YEAH

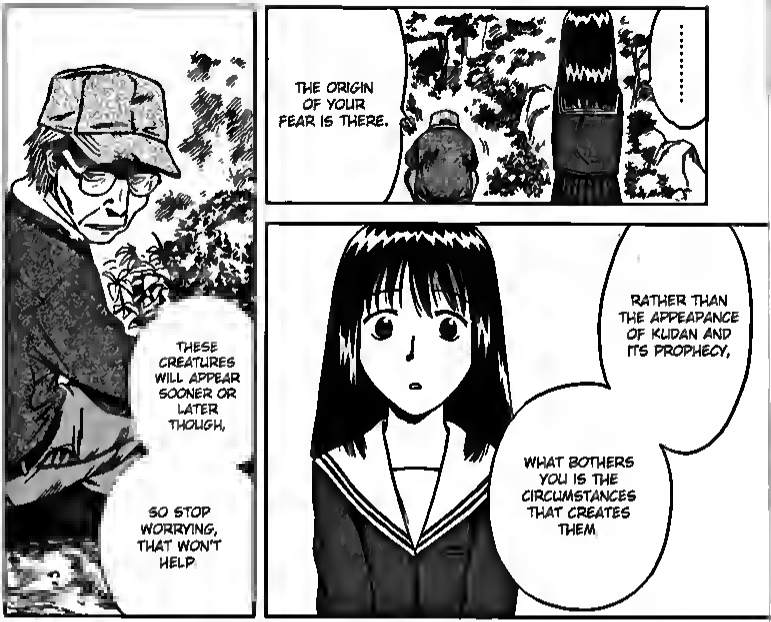
TO MY SURPRISE, THE PICTURE OF KUDAN WAS WIDESPREAD WITHIN THE AMATEURS OF OCULTISM.
AH, YEAH.
THE TALISMAN LUCKY CHARM
HEY,
ISN'T THIS THE MAGAZINE FUMI BROUGHT?
FUMI, DO YOU STILL HAVE IT,
THE PICTURE?
IT'S ALSO BEING SPREAD MORE AND MORE IN ADVERTISING MAGAZINES
I DON'T KNOW WHAT I DID WITH IT
I PROBABLY THREW IT AWAY
AH, THAT FAMOUS PROTECTIVE CHARM?

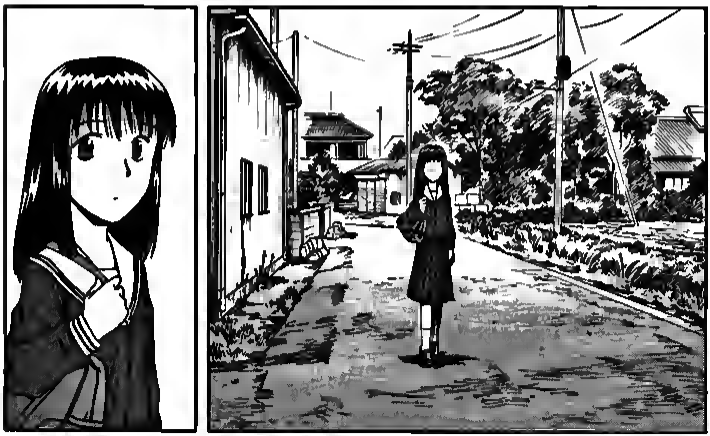

YOU THREW IT AWAY?!
THAT'S NOT POPULAR ANY MORE, YOU KNOW!
THIS IS THE TREND NOW
SPIRITUAL BEADS.
IN EACH CRYSTAL, THERE'S A CHARACTER INSCRIBED IN I DON'T KNOW WHAT!


THERE'S A LOT OF TYPES TOO, THIS ONE IS FOR GOOD FORTUNE!
IT'S INCREDIBLE, I'M GONNA WIN A LOT OF MONEY!
THAT'S OUR FUN!
.....


AFTER ALL,
KUDAN'S ACTIVITIES DIDN'T GET VERY FAR

WE'LL HAVE TO WAIT A LITTLE LONGER FOR KUDAN TO APPEAR.
THE TALISMAN OF KUDAN IS SOMEWHAT LIKE SEEDS
THEY ARE SOWN ALL AROUND THE WORLD AND WILL ONLY SPROUT WHEN CERTAIN CONDITIONS ARE MET.
YOU SEEM RELIEVED
PERHAPS THERE WILL BE A TIME WHEN WE WILL BE AT THE VERGE OF CATASTROPHIES
IT'S TO SOOTHE THE TORMENTED HEARTS OF EVERYONE AND MAKE THEM EXPRESS THEIR DISMAY
IS WHAT GIVES BIRTH TO KUDAN AND IT'S PROPHECIES.
?
THESE CONDITIONS ARE THE PEOPLE'S HOPE AND FEAR


THE ORIGIN OF YOUR FEAR IS THERE.
.....
RATHER THAN THE APPEARANCE OF KUDAN AND IT'S PROPHECY,
WHAT BOTHERS YOU IS THE CIRCUMSTANCES THAT CREATES THEM.
THESE CREATURES WILL APPEAR SOONER OR LATER THOUGH,
SO STOP WORRYING, THAT WON'T HELP



FINALLY, THEY'RE TEARING IT DOWN
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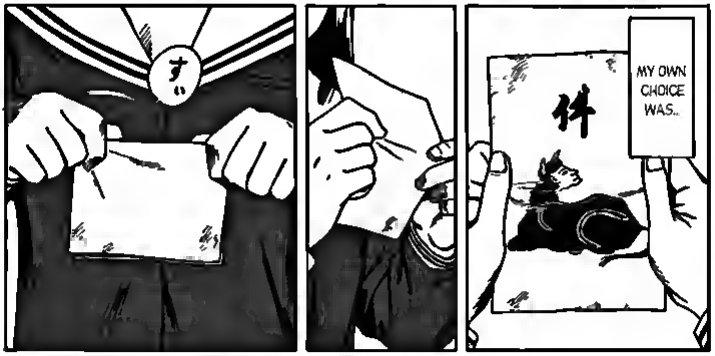
LET'S SAY IF ONE DAY I'LL HELP WITH THE APPEARANCE OF KUDAN
THEN A THOUGHT CAME TO MY MIND
KUDAN
IS STILL SHAKING LIGHTLY
SORRY..
I'M NOT A GOOD DRAWER.
WHAT WILL HAPPEN IF I WON'T REPRODUCE IT IN AN IMAGE?
.....
WILL A NEW KUDAN BE BORN ON THIS EARTH AND ANNOUNCE THE PROPHECY ANOTHER PERSON?
AND EVEN IF THE PROPHECY IS NOT PASSED TO PEOPLE,

SOME PEOPLE COPY IT AND STICK IT ON THEIR WALLS OF THEIR HOUSES.
EVEN NOWADAYS I'M SURE THE PICTURE OF KUDAN IS BEING SPREAD DISCRETELY
AND OTHERS LIKE FUMI THROW IT AWAY
IT'S A CONCEIVABLE CHOICE, ACTUALLY..

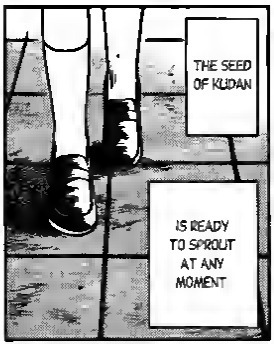

MY OWN CHOICE WAS..

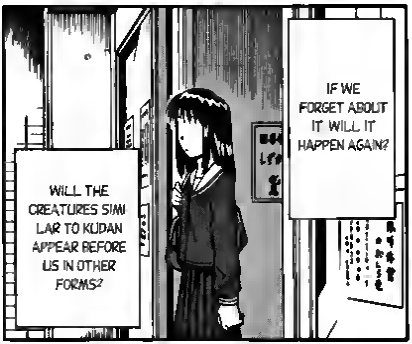
(*) USHIDA HYAKKEN

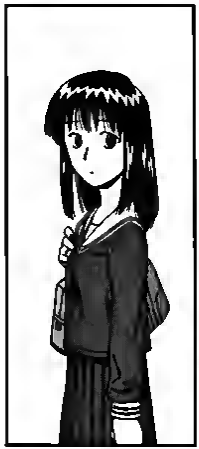
I'VE HIDDEN IT IN A BOOK.
I WONDER IF SUCH AN ACT IS FORGIVABLE?
ANYWAYS THE POWER IT CONTAINS EXCEEDS OUR UNDERSTANDING

MANGA SYNDROME
TRANSLATOR / EDITOR: REBEL

MOKKE
CREATED BY TAKATOSHI KUMAKURA







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